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Toward a New Era of Reconciliation with First Nations: A Progress Report

June 2004

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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National Aboriginal Day, June 2003

First Nations performers and representatives of the federal and provincial governments marked the eighth anniversary of National Aboriginal Day at a ceremony unveiling the $15-million Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre.

Fulfilling Our Commitments to First Nations

Three years ago, the province began working to fulfil its New Era commitments to forge a new relationship with B.C. First Nations, including commitments to:

- Fast-track treaty talks, to conclude fair treaty settlements.
- Double the First Citizens Fund to support Aboriginal friendship centres, student bursaries and economic opportunities.
- Increase program funding to solve urban challenges and build capacity.

Considerable progress has been made in many areas, including:

- Signing four Agreements-in-Principle – the most progress toward B.C. treaties in over a century.
- Over 300 agreements signed with First Nations, including treaty-related measures, economic development agreements, direct forestry awards, oil and gas consultations and collaborative parkland agreements.
- A doubled, $72-million First Citizens Fund that now supports B.C.'s commitment to increase efforts to protect and promote Aboriginal languages.
- A Memorandum of Understanding to improve the quality of education for Aboriginal students.

This progress report highlights these and other achievements toward a new relationship with – and a better life for – Aboriginal people in B.C.

Forging a New Relationship

"We are enhanced as a people when we celebrate our diversity and build on all we have in common... Nowhere is that truer than with governments' relations with First Nations."

– 2003 Throne Speech

The province's efforts to materially improve the quality of life, opportunities, education and health of Aboriginal families has been shaped by:

- Recognition of challenges affecting First Nations.
- Reconciliation, consultation and accommodation where rights may be affected.
- Renewal of First Nations' social and economic opportunities.

Founding A New Relationship on Strong, Open Communication

Key to all our successes to date is a renewed and expanded commitment to keeping dialogue flowing and building relations, through:

- The first-ever annual meetings between the First Nations Summit and cabinet, now in their third year.
- The First Citizens' Forum, established by the province to foster dialogue on social and economic issues with Aboriginal organizations, elders and youth.

Revitalizing Treaty Negotiations

New approaches to treaty negotiations have resulted in four Agreements-in-Principle and 69 treaty-related measures – all creating new certainty.

By empowering provincial negotiators to take bold steps to advance treaty negotiations, B.C. has:

- Signed four AIPs. Final Agreement negotiations are now advancing with the Lheidli T'enneh, Maa-nulth, Sliammon and Tsawwassen First Nations.
- Provided a treaty land offer of 20 per cent of the Queen Charlotte Islands, to stimulate long-stalled negotiations with the Haida Nation.
- Moved negotiations forward with $3.4 million to fund 69 treaty-related measures over three years, plus $500,000 to 17 interim measures in the government's first year.

"It is a proud moment for me personally to recognize everyone who has played a role in bringing our nation to where we are today."

- Chief Councillor L. Maynard Harry

AIP signing with Sliammon First Nation, December 2003

Front left to right: Sliammon Chief Councillor Maynard Harry and Geoff Plant, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations, sign the Sliammon AIP, with witnesses Sliammon elder Rose Louie (Th'ihat) and baby Cilas Richard Williams and mother looking on.

New Involvement in Resource Development

A brighter future for Aboriginal youth through expanded involvement in the resource sector

To create new economic certainty, the province is directly involving First Nations in decisions around land-use management. Results to date include:

- Over 90 agreements supporting resource development.
- A collaborative management framework with the Haida Nation, expected to open up economic opportunities while protecting environmental, spiritual and cultural values.
- A management agreement enabling the 'Namgis, the Mamalilikulla and the Tlowitsis First Nations from Hanson Island to approve recreation and tourism tenures, creating new opportunities.
- A new collaborative management agreement with the Heiltsuk First Nation to protect the Heiltsuk's lands and create new opportunities for the community. This agreement will ensure the First Nation is directly involved in new tourism opportunities and conservation.
- Amendments to the Park Act that will lead to improved opportunities for First Nation partnerships and working relationships to better manage our park system.

"Shellfish aquaculture is a good fit for Nuu-chah-nulth communities. We look forward to continuing our work with government and industry."

- Archie Little, northern region co-chair for the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Building Capacity in Agriculture and Aquaculture

Many First Nations want to pursue opportunities in aquaculture and marine food production. To further these opportunities, the province is:

- Determining acceptable shellfish siting and production levels and training First Nations members to conduct assessments. Fifteen pilot projects are underway.
- Doubling the Crown land available for shellfish aquaculture within 10 years, which will lead to up to 1,100 more industry jobs.
- Over $1.5 million to the Halalt, Hul'qumi'num, Huu-ay-aht and Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations for projects related to shellfish aquaculture.
- Helping First Nations to inventory shellfish sites and develop an aquaculture business strategy.

Training Aboriginal people in agricultural production, processing and marketing:

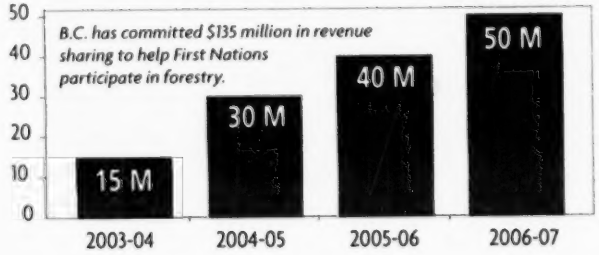
- Over $700,000 toward large-scale upgrades of irrigation systems to improve agricultural production on First Nation lands in the interior – the Adams Lake, Cook's Ferry and Upper Nicola bands.

A New Role in Revitalizing Forestry

The province has increased timber access and committed to share forestry revenues with First Nations, to strengthen stability and certainty for all forestry stakeholders. New First Nations jobs and opportunities are resulting from:

- $135 million in forest revenue-sharing over four years and more than doubling – to eight per cent – the allowable annual cut for First Nations.
- Direct invitations to apply for timber rights. Since September 2002, the Minister of Forests has signed agreements with 48 First Nations to provide access to 9.5 million cubic metres of timber and to share forestry revenues of over $55 million.
- Competitive tenure awards. For example, the Quatsino, Kwakiutl and Tlatlasikwala First Nations won a seven-year timber-sale licence with an annual allowable cut of 43,345 cubic metres.
- The first-ever Minister of Forests workshops on increasing First Nations' participation in forestry, which explore issues like joint ventures with industry.

Revenue sharing to create First Nations jobs



New Opportunities in Oil and Gas

As B.C.'s energy industry continues to boom – with the largest-ever monthly sale of oil and gas rights in September 2003 – B.C. has pioneered a training and employment agreement for northeastern First Nations.

The province and chiefs of the Treaty 8 First Nations have created unprecedented opportunities in oil and gas, including:

- Signed a protocol agreement to negotiate resolutions to longstanding issues related to oil and gas development, including revenue-sharing.
- Provided over $440,000 to Treaty 8 to undertake research and training activities related to these negotiations.
- $19.2 million to support seven consultation agreements since 2001.
- Funding for many scientific, community and environmental projects through the Oil and Gas Commission's $5-million environment fund.

A Consultative, Science-Based Approach to Offshore Oil and Gas

Offshore oil and gas offers enormous potential opportunities for communities in northwestern B.C. and on Vancouver Island. The province is working with a number of First Nations to provide balanced and factual information to their communities on offshore oil and gas. This includes opportunities for First Nation leaders to participate in fact-finding missions to places where offshore oil and gas activity is underway.

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As Premier Gordon Campbell adds his signature to a legal agreement between the Ministry of Forests and the Turning Point First Nations, Minister of Forests Mike de Jong, Chief Councillor Alex Chartrand of the Wuikinuxv First Nation and Councillor Frank Hanuse, a Wuikinuxv elder witness the turning point to prosperity — where revenue-sharing and guaranteed access to timber will allow First Nations to build meaningful business partnerships in the forestry industry.

"The Northeast Aboriginal Business Centre is a great beginning for Treaty 8 people. Building with government, industry and business partnerships is the path to success and dreams for all of us."

- Chief Garry Oker
of Doig River First Nations

New Relationships are Promoting Economic Development and Jobs

B.C. has awarded over $26 million to support 145 economic development projects in Aboriginal communities across the province

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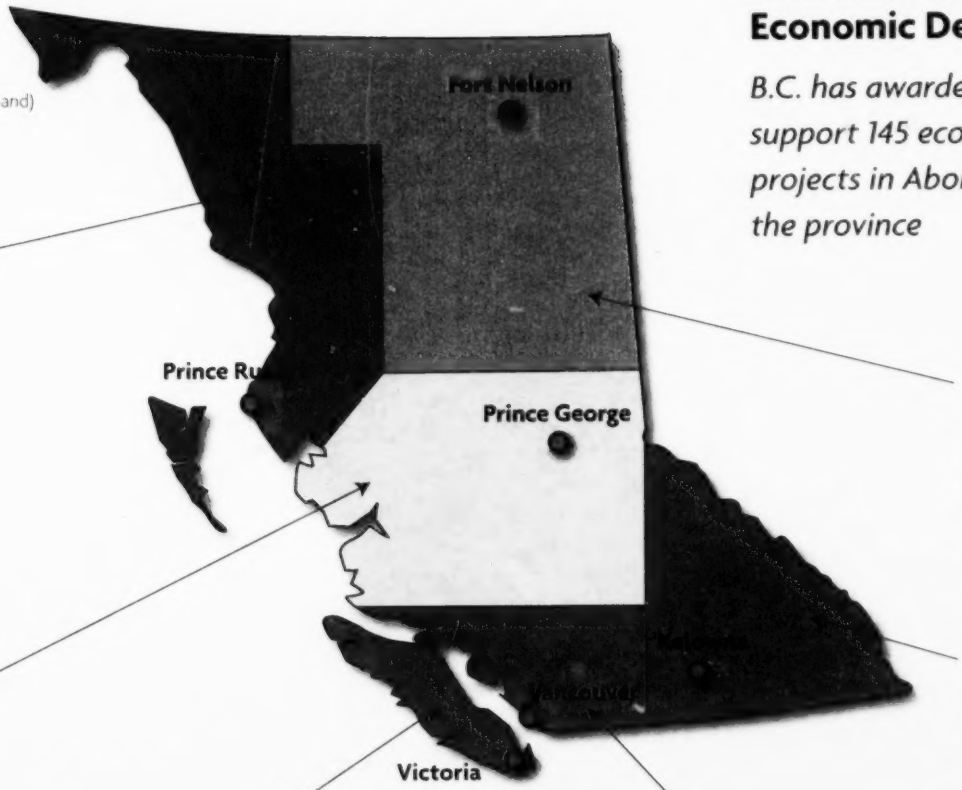


Council of the Haida Nation
Gitanmaax Band Council
Gitanyow Band Council
Gitsegukla Indian Band
Gitwangak Band Council
Gitxsan Treaty Society
Hartley Bay Village Council (Gitiga'at Band)
Iskut First Nation
Kincolith Village Government
Kispiox Band Council
Kitasoo Band Council
Kitimaat Village Council
Kitkatla First Nation
Kitselas Indian Band
Kitsumkalum Band
Lax Kw 'alaams Indian Band
Metlakatla Band
Moricetown Band
New Aiyansh Village Government
Nisga'a Lisims Government
Old Massett Village Council
Skidegate Band Council
Tahltan Indian Band
Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Tsimshian Tribal Council

Burns Lake Indian Band
Canim Lake Indian Band
Canoe Creek Indian Band
Cariboo Tribal Council
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
Cheslatta Indian Band
Esketemc First Nation
Heiltsuk Nation
High Bar First Nation
Kluskus Indian Band
Lake Babine Nation
Lheidli-Tenneh First Nation
Tsekani First Nation
Nadleh Whut'en Band
Nak'azdli Indian Band
Saik'uz First Nation
Soda Creek Indian Band
Stellat'en First Nation
Tl'azt'en Nation
Ulkatcho First Nation
Wet'suwet'en First Nation
Williams Lake Indian Band
Xeni Gwet'in First Nation
Yekoochee First Nation

Campbell River Indian Band
Chemainus First Nation
Comox Indian Band
Cowichan Tribes
Ditidaht First Nation
Esquimalt First Nation
Hamatla Treaty Society
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
Hupacasath First Nation
Huu-ay-aht First Nation
Kwakiutl Band Council
Lyackson First Nation
Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Pacheedaht First Nation
Penelakut Indian Band
Quatsino First Nation
Snuneymuxw First Nation
Toquaht Band
Uchucklesaht First Nation
Wei Wai Kai First Nation

Ashcroft Indian Band
Bonaparte Indian Band
Boothroyd Indian Band
Boston Bar First Nation
Cook's Ferry Indian Band
Douglas First Nation
Homalco Indian Band
In-SHUCK-ch Council
Katzie First Nation
Lil'wat First Nation
Lytton First Nation
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
Oregon Jack Creek Band
Seton Lake Band
Skeetchestn Indian Band
Siska Indian Band
Sliammon First Nation
Soowahlie First Nation
Spuzzum First Nation
Squamish Nation
Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Upper Nicola Band
Yale First Nation

Metis Provincial Council of BC
(Province-wide)
Blueberry River First Nation
Doig River First Nation
Fort Nelson First Nation
Halfway River First Nation
Kaska Dena First Nation
Kwadacha Band
Prophet River Band
Saulteau First Nation
Takla Lake First Nation
West Moberly First Nations
Adams Lake Indian Band
Columbia Lake Indian Band
Kamloops Indian Band
Ktunuxa - Kinbasket Tribal Council
Little Shuswap Indian Band
Lower Kootenay Indian Band
Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Neskonlith Indian Band
North Thompson Indian Band
Okanagan Indian Band
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Osoyoos Indian Band
Penticton Indian Band
Shuswap Indian Band
Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
Spallumcheen Indian Band
St. Mary's Indian Band
Tobacco Plains Indian Band
Upper Similkameen Indian Band
Westbank First Nation
Whispering Pines Band

New Resources to Create Economic Opportunities

As Aboriginal communities seek new opportunities in many promising sectors, the province is supporting their efforts through economic development projects in shellfish aquaculture, tourism, mining and forestry, as well as projects related to the 2010 Olympics.

To date, B.C. has awarded over $26 million for 145 projects, including:

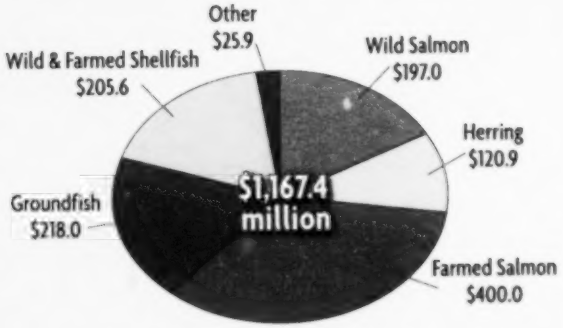
- $3 million for the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations Cultural Centre, which will provide 50 construction jobs and up to 31 peak-season jobs.
- $900,000 to develop partnerships with the private sector to enhance Aboriginal job opportunities.
- $200,000 to provide prospecting and field school opportunities to Yekooche First Nation members.
- $586,000 to support a forestry management program and a coalbed methane exploration program for the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council.
- $230,000 to initiate a partnership for run-of-river independent power projects with the Mount Currie and Douglas First Nations.

Opening Up New Opportunities Through Better Transportation

First Nations will benefit from nearly $1.3 billion in upgrading of the province's highways, resource roads, ports and airports over the next three years – plus new approaches that strengthen rail and coastal ferry services. Highlights for First Nations include:

- Completion of the $52-million Nisga'a Highway and the $17.3-million Kincolith connector, which will open up the Nass valley to increased business, tourism and resource development.
- Memorandums of Understanding that will involve the Tsleil-Waututh and Lil'wat First Nations and ongoing discussions with the Squamish First Nation for opportunities arising from Sea-to-Sky Highway upgrading.
- The completion of the $11-million Tuck Inlet Road, which will provide safe, all-weather access for Lax Kwal'aams residents to the remote Village of Port Simpson. B.C. worked with Canada and the First Nation to fund this road.

Aquaculture Means More Coastal Jobs



Farmed salmon represented one-third of the wholesale value of B.C.'s catch in 2002.

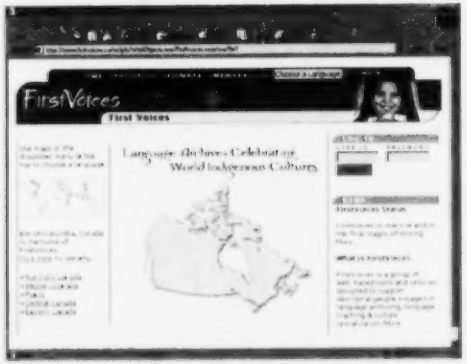
Cowichan $13.6 million forestry agreement

Ministers de Jong and Bruce, accompanied by Cowichan Tribes Elders, on the way to sign a $13.6 million forestry agreement in Duncan on February 4, 2004

Kincolith Extension Highway Opening, May 2003

The 29-kilometre road linking Greenville and Kincolith is part of nearly $70 million in highway investments that will increase business, tourism and resource development in the Nass valley.

New Resources to Support Aboriginal Entrepreneurs, Students and Culture



www.FirstVoices.com

FirstVoices.com Language Preservation Program, Launched June 2003

By supporting this innovative, Internet-based program, the province is helping Aboriginal people to maintain a connection with their language, heritage and culture. In all, the province has allocated over $4 million to Aboriginal language preservation.

In the spirit of reconciliation and renewed respect, B.C. has doubled the First Citizens Fund to support Aboriginal business development and heritage preservation.

The First Citizens Fund continues to provide loans to approximately 140 Aboriginal businesses and student bursaries to 125 students each year. It also supports friendship centres and elders' travel to conferences and workshops.

Doubling the fund to $72 million has expanded support for Aboriginal entrepreneurs, job-creation and culture:

- Two Aboriginal Business Development Centres have been established in Cranbrook and Fort St. John to help plan and mentor new businesses in the north-east and southeast regions of the province. Since opening in early 2003, these centres have served over 300 clients.
- A $1-million federal-provincial initiative that helps Aboriginals make informed training choices based on labour-market demands.
- Support for about 40 community-initiated language preservation projects each year and FirstVoices.com, an innovative, Internet-based program to preserve Aboriginal languages. Since 2001, the province has allocated over $4 million to Aboriginal language preservation.

A New Relationship to Revitalize First Nations' Health and Education

B.C. is acting to address health challenges that have impacted the success and well-being of Aboriginals for decades, by:

- Providing $10 million to support Aboriginal health programs through regional health authorities.
- Mentoring new Aboriginal nurses and helping Aboriginal people with some health-related education or experience to pursue higher-level nursing programs.
- Funding nine Aboriginal mental health liaison workers across B.C., plus healing programs that address addiction and other issues for Aboriginal women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.
- Developing with the First Nations Chiefs Health Committee, the B.C. First Nations Health Handbook, a more user-friendly and culturally appropriate version of the B.C. Health Guide.

Dedicating Extra Funding to Aboriginal Students' Success

Memorandum of Understanding to improve the quality of education for Aboriginal students

In July 2003, B.C., Canada and the First Nations Education Steering Committee signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve the quality of education for Aboriginal students and to provide First Nations on- and off-reserve with enhanced authority and greater influence over K to 12 education.

In the fall of 2003, B.C. published a new textbook and teacher's guide which are unique in Canada. The resources are for First Nations Studies 12, which is designed to raise awareness of First Nations and Métis history, language and culture.

The province is also working to further the educational achievement of Aboriginal people. B.C. is dedicating $44 million — $950 for every Aboriginal student in the province – to improve Aboriginal students' outcomes in school, supporting:

- Aboriginal enhancement agreements – collaborative partnerships between Aboriginal communities and school districts that involve shared decision-making and goal-setting. The province has put in place 12 enhancement agreements, and is well on its way to signing 21 more. The goal is to have agreements in place or in progress with all 60 B.C. school districts by 2005.
- Higher graduation rates. The number of Aboriginals graduating from B.C. high schools increased 13 per cent between 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Stimulating Post-Secondary Interests and Ensuring Access

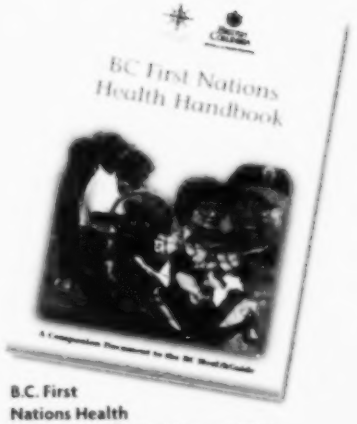
Since 2001, the province has funded 85 special projects to help more than 2,000 Aboriginal learners to further their education in areas ranging from health and social work to science, forestry, Aboriginal languages and trades.

B.C. is supporting many innovative Aboriginal post-secondary programs, including:

- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Simon Fraser University's Aboriginal Community Economic Development Bachelor of Arts Degree Program.
- Capilano College's Aboriginal Film and Television Program.

The province is also working to encourage Aboriginal interest and achievement in careers that will directly benefit Aboriginal communities:

- Aboriginal Youth First, which provides leadership and employment skills, has helped over 250 urban and rural youth, many of whom now work in recreation and adventure tourism.
- Bladerunners, which provides on-the-job construction training for at-risk youth. A new partnership with developers is expanding participation by 30 per cent, to 120 youth.
- To increase the number of social workers and child and youth workers skilled in meeting the needs of Aboriginal communities and families, the province has funded an extra 20 student spaces in Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts, Child and Youth Care programs.
- B.C. is helping to bring high-speed Internet to 100 First Nation communities for the first time, opening up new educational and economic opportunities.



B.C. First Nations Health Handbook, Released January 2003

This handbook – a more user-friendly and culturally appropriate version of the B.C. Health Guide – was developed with and for First Nations to help improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal people across B.C.

"Our primary concern is to improve the health of B.C.'s First Nations. This handbook is a positive and welcome step as we work with the province to make our goal a reality."

- Margery McRae, chair of the First Nations Chiefs' Health Committee

A New Relationship to Strengthen Child Protection

Memorandum of Understanding For Aboriginal Children, September 2002

The province is making unprecedented efforts to strengthen family ties, cultural awareness and childhood development among Aboriginal children.

Aboriginal Youth First, softball team 2003

The official launch of the Aboriginal Youth First program in East Vancouver. Ministry staff and community service providers teamed up to play a softball game against the Aboriginal Youth First participants.

Aboriginal children and youth are benefiting from efforts to strengthen their connection with their roots and address developmental and other challenges that affect them.

Children's roots are forever, and their safety and well-being are paramount for the province and their communities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that underscores these values has resulted in:

- The Joint Aboriginal Management Committee, representing three signatories of the MOU, is overseeing the plan to create Aboriginal regional authorities to provide child and family development services.
- The development of the Child's Roots Are Forever project looks at the plans of 2,700 Aboriginal children in government care, to identify those who may benefit from returning to their family and, for others, ways to strengthen their connection with their community and culture.
- The ongoing transfer of Aboriginal children in care to the 20 Aboriginal delegated agencies and the continued development of other delegated agencies.

Improving Children's Early Development and Outcomes

Identifying and addressing developmental challenges early in children's lives is critical, and as a group, Aboriginal children face certain challenges at disproportionately high levels. To address more of these challenges earlier and more effectively, B.C. has dedicated:

- Over $8 million in 2003-04 to early childhood development programs in 41 urban and on-reserve Aboriginal communities.
- $2.2 million to research into culturally appropriate early childhood development services and increasing awareness of the importance of early childhood development among Aboriginal communities and leaders.
- Over $1 million to combat fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.
- An advisor to help develop culturally appropriate programs for children under 3 with developmental disabilities or at risk of developmental delays.
- Partnerships have been developed with the federal government and post-secondary institutions to address the recruitment and retention of early childhood development professionals in Aboriginal communities.

"The Parties agree that there is a disproportionate number of Aboriginal children in care in British Columbia. They agree that this number must be reduced and the children should be returned to their communities where it is appropriate to do so."

- Memorandum of Understanding for Aboriginal Children

A Vital Role in the 2010 Games

First Nations played a crucial role in securing the 2010 Olympics for B.C., and now, the province is working to ensure they share in the benefits this world-class event will bring.

Planning is well underway to maximize First Nations' involvement in and benefits from ongoing preparation for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games:

- The Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations have signed an Olympic legacy agreement related to training, housing, youth sports and Olympic infrastructure. The two First Nations will help to ensure that development of the Whistler Nordic Centre respects their sensitive areas and land-use plans.
- Memorandums of Understanding pertaining to Sea-to-Sky Highway improvements and the Games support the involvement of the Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations in economic, job and capacity-building opportunities.
- $400,000 to support the new First Nations Tourism Management Cooperative Diploma program at Capilano College.

In addition, B.C. remains committed to furthering partnerships and agreements that cultivate growing Aboriginal tourism opportunities – especially as we prepare to welcome the world in 2010.

◀ $400,000 Diploma Program Announced

Geoff Plant, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations (second from left) is joined by three First Nation students, Lorne Edmonds (far left) of Lil'wat Nation, Vicki Sparrow of Musqueam Nation and Sam George (right) of Squamish Nation, in front of Stawamus Chief Mountain in Squamish, after announcing $400,000 to the First Nations Tourism Management Co-operative Diploma program at Capilano College.

Team BC Members, 2002 Aboriginal Games ▶

2010 LegaciesNow, a provincewide sport-development program, is supporting sport legacies in the years leading up to the 2010 Games. To date, it has contributed $70,000 to support the Aboriginal Team BC program through the Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Association of BC. The association prepares Aboriginal athletes for the North American Indigenous Games through coaching, training clinics and sport medicine services.

"The successful 2010 Winter Olympic Games bid by Vancouver and Whistler provides a tremendous opportunity to showcase British Columbia, its tremendous pool of talent, cultural diversity and diverse geography."

- Grand Chief Edward John,
First Nations Summit

VANCOUVER 2010

"The future will be forged in partnership with First Nations - not in denial of their history, heritage and culture. It will be won in recognition of First Nations' constitutional rights and title - not lost for another generation because we failed to act. It will be earned through reconciliation and mutual respect. It will be built with bold new approaches that will materially improve First Nations' quality of life - before and after treaties are concluded."

- Throne Speech, February 2003

We would like to hear from you

To make sure that local place names reflect the values and traditions of First Nations, the British Columbia Government is encouraging First Nations to become more involved in the naming of geographical landmarks. To find out how you can get involved phone Enquiry BC: **1-800-663-7867** *(ask for "Geographical Names")*

For more information on services to First Nations:

Treaty Negotiations Office
Victoria: 250 356-8281
Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 880-1022
www.gov.bc.ca/tno/

Aboriginal Directorate/First Citizens Fund
Victoria: 250 356-5276
www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/Aboriginal_dir/index.htm

Job Opportunities in the Forest Sector
www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/firefighter/equity.htm

Aboriginal Programs – Ministry of Education
Victoria: 250 356-1891
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/

Aboriginal Programs – Ministry of Advanced Education
www.aved.gov.bc.ca/Aboriginal/

Aboriginal Health
Ministry of Health Planning
Victoria: 250 952-3151
www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/Aboriginal/

Aboriginal Languages
First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council
Victoria: 250 383-2126
www.fpcf.ca

Aboriginal Geographical Names
geographical.names@gems8.gov.bc.ca
Enquiry BC: 1 800 663-7867 *(ask for "Geographical Names")*

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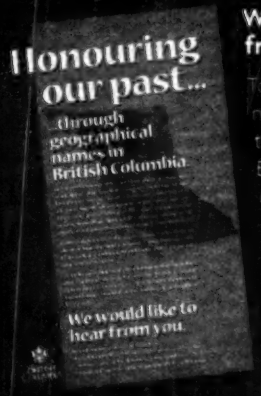

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Aboriginal Programs – Ministry of Education
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www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/

Aboriginal Programs – Ministry of Advanced Education
www.aved.gov.bc.ca/Aboriginal/

Aboriginal Health
Ministry of Health Planning
Victoria: 250 952-3151
www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/Aboriginal/

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